

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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1. The entire staff employed in the MAV (Hungarian State Railroads) building of the Ministry of Mail and Communications in Budapest recently attended a compulsory course of lectures on civil defense. The lectures took place weekly on Thursday from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. and culminated in a civil defense exercise in the MAV building on 26 November 1953. This exercise amounted to a simple passive air defense and fire-fighting drill, but it was considered necessary to have a dress rehearsal on 19 November 1953 to ensure that Party chiefs attending on the 26th should be suitably impressed.
2. Apparently the office staff attended the lectures only because they were ordered to, not because they expected to learn anything from them. It was observed that the instructors were as bored while giving the lectures, as were their listeners.
3. The recently published manuals still are based on experience of civil defense gained in the 1939-45 war. No mention is made in them to atomic warfare. In the MAV course only one reference was made to the atomic bomb, when it was said to have been used in Japan to end the war in the Far East. Experience gained in Korea does not appear to have modified ARP instructions in anyway. The ARP manuals available to the MAV office staff may only be studied inside the MAV building.
4. Gas masks were demonstrated at one lecture and the protection against mustard-type gases was taught to everyone participating in the course. Those attending were told that in an emergency gas masks would be issued to all, but none were available in the MAV building for such use at the time of the civil defense exercise.

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW